

Message Text

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SECDEF WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA
COMUS KOREA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 TOKYO 04281

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, JA
SUBJECT: VISIT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE DUNCAN:
CALLS ON FOREIGN MINISTER AND DEFENSE MINISTER

SUMMARY: MEETINGS OF DEPSECDEF DUNCAN WITH FOREIGN AND
DEFENSE MINISTERS PROVIDED USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE
CONSULTATIVE DIALOGUE ON KOREA WITHDRAWAL PLANS, AS WELL
AS TO UNDERSCORE US RESOLVE TO SUSTAIN ITS ASIAN COMMIT-
MENTS, SYMBOLIZED BY TEAM SPIRIT EXERCISE. IN UNREHEARSED
REMARKS, FONMIN SONODA CALLED ON US TO PLACE US-JAPANESE
RELATIONS ON EVEN SOUNDER FOOTING BY BEING COMPLETELY
FRANK WITH JAPAN IN REGARD TO US WORLDWIDE POLITICAL-
MILITARY STRATEGY, LEAVING IT UP TO GOJ TO DETERMINE HOW
IT MIGHT BEST COOPERATE IN SPIRIT OF PARTNERSHIP. BOTH
SONODA AND JDA DIRECTOR GENERAL KANEMARU SEEMED RECEPTIVE
TO DEPSEC DUNCAN'S SUGGESTIONS THAT WE CONTINUE TO
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EXPLORE WITH GOJ ADDITIONAL AVENUES OF COST-SHARING.
DEPSEC DUNCAN, IN RESPONSE TO KANEMARU'S INTEREST IN
VISITING WASHINGTON, INDICATED WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO
WELCOME HIM AND WOULD SEE IF WE COULD WORK OUT SOMETHING
THIS SUMMER. END SUMMARY.

1. ASKED BY FONMIN SONODA ABOUT HIS OBSERVATION OF TEAM

SPIRIT, DEPSEC SAID EXERCISE HAD BEEN EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL, DEMONSTRATING US CAPACITY TO REINFORCE RAPIDLY. US AND ROK COMMANDERS WERE SATISFIED EXERCISE HAD DEMONSTRATED THEIR RESPECTIVE TROOPS COULD WORK WELL TOGETHER. WE WERE CONFIDENT IN THE CAPABILITIES OF BOTH FORCES. FOR OUR PART, WE APPRECIATED JAPANESE COOPERATION IN REGARD TO USE OF US BASES IN JAPAN IN THE EXERCISE AND THE GOVERNMENT'S RECOGNITION OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EXERCISE. KOREANS WOULD PREFER, OF COURSE, TO HAVE US FORCES STAY, AND PRESIDENT PAK WAS WORRIED WHETHER CONGRESS WOULD ACT ON COMPENSATORY MEASURES IN VIEW OF LINKAGE BEING CREATED WITH ACTIVITIES OF ETHICS COMMITTEE. DEPSEC HAD EMPHASIZED TO KOREANS RESOLVE OF US COMMITMENT, AND WHILE THIS DID NOT ALLAY THEIR CONCERNS HE THOUGHT IT WAS REASSURING TO THEM. IN ANY EVENT WHAT HE HAD SAID WAS AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF US POLICY.

2. SONODA SAID SUCH ACTIONS AS SECRETARY BROWN'S LA SPEECH AND TEAM SPIRIT WERE HIGHLY REGARDED AS SHOWING US INTEREST IN ASIA HAD NOT BEEN REDUCED, AS MANY ASIANS HAD FEARED, AS RESULT OF KOREAN TROOP WITHDRAWALS. IT WAS CLEAR, TAKING COMPENSATORY MEASURES INTO ACCOUNT, THAT US FORCES IN ASIA WERE NOT BEING WEAKENED BUT STRENGTHENED, AND THAT US WOULD RESPOND IN CONTINGENCIES. TEAM SPIRIT WAS VERY EFFECTIVE IN THIS REGARD AND FOREIGN MINISTER WISHED TO CONGRATULATE COMMANDERS CONCERNED ON SUCCESS OF

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EXERCISE -- FACT THAT HE HAD NO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT EXERCISE, HE SAID SMILINGLY, TESTIFIED TO ITS SUCCESS.

3. DEPSEC SAID HE WAS GLAD TO SEE FONMIN REFER TO SECRETARY BROWN'S LA SPEECH; HE NOTED THAT VICE PRESIDENT WOULD ALSO BE MAKING SPEECH ON ASIA DURING HIS FORTHCOMING ASIAN TRIP. US AT HIGHEST LEVELS WANTED TO MAKE CLEAR KOREAN TROOP WITHDRAWALS DID NOT INFER LESSENED INTEREST IN ASIA.

4. DEPSEC PRAISED CURRENT STATE OF US-JAPAN DEFENSE COOPERATION AND SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGED BY RECENT LABOR-COST-SHARING AGREEMENT. HE RECOGNIZED JAPAN'S POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES, BUT HOPED WE COULD CONTINUE TO EXPLORE FURTHER COST-SHARING MEASURES AS MATTER OF GREAT INTEREST. HE ALSO WISHED TO CONGRATULATE MINISTER ON APPROVAL OF F-15 AND PC-3 PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS.

5. SONODA, SPEAKING WITHOUT NOTES, IN REMARKS HIS STAFF INDICATED REPRESENTED DIRECTION OF HIS OWN THINKING, SAID US-JAPAN COOPERATION WAS GOING SMOOTHLY AND JAPANESE DEFENSE POLICY COULD ONLY BE CARRIED OUT IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH US, BUT THERE WAS STILL ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT.

JAPANESE PEOPLE HAD TO UNDERSTAND THAT WHILE US PEOPLE WERE PREPARED TO DEFEND JAPAN, JAPAN MUST BE PREPARED TO DEFEND ITSELF AND THAT US FORCES COMPLEMENTED JAPANESE FORCES. OUR TWO COUNTRIES MUST WORK HAND-IN-HAND IN DEFENSE AREA IN ORDER TO PRESERVE WORLD PEACE. EXPERIENCE IN WORLD WAR II, SONODA SAID, HAD TAUGHT HIM THAT COUNTRY THAT DID WHATEVER YOU WANTED IT TO DO MIGHT MAKE RELATIONSHIP EASIER FOR A WHILE, BUT IT COULD BE UNRELIABLE. TRUE COOPERATION DEPENDED UPON SEIZING MINDS OF PEOPLE AND HAVING THEIR FULL SUPPORT. ACCORDINGLY, HE APPEALED TO US TO DESCRIBE FRANKLY TO GOJ ITS WORLDWIDE POLITICAL STRATEGY AND TO AIR US CONCERNS ABOUT HOW IT HOPED JAPAN

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WOULD FIT INTO PICTURE. JAPAN, ON THIS BASIS, WOULD INDEPENDENTLY TAKE SUPPORTIVE ACTIONS AND SEEK BACKING OF ITS PEOPLE. FONMIN HOPED DIALOGUE ALONG THESE LINES COULD BE PURSUED AT SUMMIT MEETING IN MAY WITH OBJECTIVE OF ENHANCING EVEN DEEPER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

6. DEPSEC DUNCAN SAID HE APPRECIATED FONMIN'S REMARKS, PARTICULARLY COMMENTS ABOUT SUPPORT OF PEOPLE. HE WAS CONVINCED FOR THEIR PART AMERICAN PEOPLE WERE INCREASINGLY CONSCIOUS OF THEIR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND POINTED OUT THAT CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR DEFENSE BUDGET WAS

GROWING.

7. IN RESPONSE TO FONMIN'S QUESTION ABOUT PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS, DEPSEC INFORMED HIM ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE PROCEEDING MUCH BETTER THAN LAST YEAR, WITH POSSIBILITY AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED IN NEXT CONFIDENTIAL

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FEW WEEKS. FONMIN SAID HE WAS GLAD TO HEAR THIS AND HOPED WE WOULD CONTINUE TO KEEP JAPANESE INFORMED ON DETAILS IN ADVANCE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT, IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS ON US-JAPAN SECURITY RELATIONSHIP. DEPSEC SAID WE WOULD TRY TO DO NOTHING IN PHILIPPINE BASE AGREEMENT THAT WOULD CAUSE POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR JAPAN, AND PROMISED TO KEEP JAPANESE FILLED IN REGARD TO PARTICULARS.

8. IN PARTING, SONODA EXPRESSED DEEP APPRECIATION TO US COMMANDERS IN JAPAN FOR THEIR EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF US-JAPAN SECURITY RELATIONSHIP.

9. JDA DIRGEN KANEMARU OPENED HIS MEETING WITH DEPSEC BY NOTING HE HAD ENTERED DIET IN YEAR WHEN MST WAS RATIFIED AND THEREFORE REGARDED MST AS VERY IMPORTANT FOR JAPAN. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR US COOPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF DETERRENT POSTURE IN ASIA, AND SATISFACTION AT EXTENT AND DEPTH OF US-JAPAN CONSULTATIONS, NOTING THAT REGULAR SECDEF-DEFMIN CONSULTATIONS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN 1975. HE ASKED MR. DUNCAN TO CONVEY TO SECRETARY BROWN INVITATIONS TO VISIT JAPAN AND SAID IT WOULD BE FOLLOWED IN WRITING.

10. KANEMARU SAID HE IN TURN WISHED TO VISIT US FOR TALKS WITH SECDEF AND OTHER SENIOR USG OFFICIALS AFTER MAY DIET ADJOURNMENT. DEPSEC RESPONDED THAT MR. KANEMARU WOULD BE WELCOME AND SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS SOME TIME DURING SUMMER MIGHT BE MUTUALLY CONVENIENT. HE WOULD PASS THE MESSAGE TO THE SECRETARY, AND STAY IN TOUCH.

11. TURNING TO KOREA, KANEMARU COMMENTED THAT WHILE JAPANESE OPPOSITION PARTIES HAD VARIOUS VIEWS, GOOD JAPAN-ROK RELATIONS WERE UNTHINKABLE WITHOUT A US PRESENCE. THERE HAD BEEN TALK IN DIET THAT US WAS WITHDRAWING FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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ASIA BUT TEAM SPIRIT HAD DEMONSTRATED US STRENGTH AND DETERMINATION.

12. MR. DUNCAN AGREED REVIEWING EVALUATION OF TEAM SPIRIT ALONG LINK HE HAD WITH FONMIN. HE SAID HE HAD FOUND BOTH KOREAN AND US FORCES IMPRESSIVE, AS DID US MILITARY COMMANDERS. ROK FORCES WERE MAKING STEADY PROGRESS IN EVERY FIELD. ROK UNDERSTOOD SECOND DIVISION WOULD BE LEAVING AND WAS STRIVING TO FILL GAP. THEY STILL NEEDED TO HARDEN COMMUNICATIONS NET, IMPROVE POL STORAGE AND EXPAND LOGISTIC SUPPORT CAPABILITY. SOME US SHORTCOMINGS WERE ALSO REVEALED IN EXERCISE, BUT BOTH FORCES WERE COOPERATING TO CORRECT THESE.

13. MR. DUNCAN SAID THAT WITHDRAWAL PLANS HAD BEEN REVIEWED DURING HIS VISIT AND THAT EVERYTHING WAS MOVING ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE. US WERE PLANNING TO WITHDRAW 6000 TROOPS BY END OF YEAR. HE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASSED WITH PROGRESS IN ESTABLISHING COMBINED COMMAND, WHICH WAS EXPECTED TO BE IN OPERATION BEFORE FIRST INCREMENT OF TROOPS WAS WITHDRAWN. OTHER ELEMENTS OF PROGRAM WERE AS DESCRIBED BY SECDEF LAST YEAR, E.G., IT WOULD TAKE PLACE IN THREE PHASES, A 20 PERCENT AUGMENTATION OF TACTICAL AIRCRAFT WOULD BE CARRIED OUT, ETC.

14. DEPSEC SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT NORTH KOREA HAVE NO MISUNDERSTANDING OF US INTENT. TEAM SPIRIT'S VERY SUCCESSFUL, VISIBLE AND CLEAR DEMONSTRATION OF US CAPACITY FOR RAPID DEPLOYMENT MUST HAVE BEEN NOTICES. IT WAS HELPFUL THAT ROK ALSO FOUND THE EXERCISE A SUCCESS. DEPSEC THANKED KANEMARU FOR JAPANESE COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING IN USE OF JAPANESE BASES HERE FOR SUPPORT OF EXERCISE.

15. MR. DUNCAN SAID THAT ADMINISTRATION WAS DETERMINED

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TO DO EVERYTHING NECESSARY TO OBTAIN CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. SECRETARY BROWN, HE, AND OTHERS HAD TESTIFIED SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE CONGRESS AND PRESIDENT, HIMSELF, HAS TALKED TO CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS. IN HIS PERSONAL VIEW CONGRESS WOULD IN THE END DISTINGUISH BETWEEN SECURITY ISSUES AND PROBLEMS OF ETHICS COMMITTEE. HE WANTED TO ASSURE JAPANESE THAT WHATEVER HAPPENED US WOULD NOT TAKE ANY STEPS THAT WOULD JEOPARDIZE THE KOREAN PENINSULA. WE WOULD STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH GOJ ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO PROGRESS IN CONGRESS.

16. ASKED BY VICE-MINISTER MARUYAMA WHETHER TEAM SPIRIT WAS POSTULATED ON PRC OR SOVIET SUPPORT OF A NORTH KOREAN ATTACK, MR. DUNCAN SAID IT HAD BEEN CONDUCTED ON BASIS OF NORTH KOREAN ATTACK IN COURSE OF WHICH US FORCES BECAME IMMEDIATELY INVOLVED. ASKED HOW MUCH TIME HAD ELAPSED BETWEEN PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF EXERCISE, DEPSEC SAID CONFIDENTIAL

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EXERCISE HAD BEEN PLANNED WELL IN ADVANCE. IT DEMONSTRATED HOW QUICKLY FORCES COULD BE DEPLOYED TO KOREA IN EMERGENCY. GEN. BRASWELL ADDED IT SHOWED THAT TACTICAL AIRCRAFT COULD DEPLOY A SQUADRON WITHIN 2-3 DAYS; GROUND FORCE DEPLOYMENTS WOULD TAKE SEVERAL DAYS.

17. GEN. KURISU SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THREE-STAGE WITHDRAWAL PLAN WAS ON SCHEDULE, BUT WONDERED, APART FROM OVERT INVASION, WHAT KIND OF CIRCUMSTANCES COULD CAUSE A CHANGE IN PLAN. MR. DUNCAN SAID THAT IF WE WERE TO CONCLUDE THAT CONTINUATION OF WITHDRAWAL PLAN WOULD LEAD TO INSTABILITY ON PENINSULA, WE WOULD RECONSIDER, I.E., IN CARRYING OUT PHASED WITHDRAWAL WE WERE COMMITTED NOT TO DO ANYTHING THAT WOULD UPSET STABILITY. IN RESPONSE TO MARUYAMA'S QUESTION ABOUT SECOND AND THIRD STAGES, MR. DUNCAN SAID OUR PLANS WERE STILL CONFIDENTIAL BUT WE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE SECOND STAGE IN MID-1980 WITH FINAL STAGE COMPLETED IN 4-5 YEARS.

18. ASKED BY JDA COUNSELOR OHTSUKA WHETHER EXERCISE HAD BEEN CONDUCTED ON ASSUMPTION US FORCES HAD NOT BEEN WITHDRAWN, DEPSEC SAID POINT OF EXERCISE WAS TO DEMONSTRATE ABILITY OF US AND ROK FORCES TO WORK TOGETHER IN ALL

CIRCUMSTANCES, SO THAT WITHDRAWAL PLANS HAD NO DIRECT RELEVANCE. MR. ABRAMOWITZ ELABORATED THAT TEAM SPIRIT WAS IN FACT A VARIETY OF EXERCISES TO TEST A WIDE ASSORTMENT OF CAPABILITIES AND DID NOT ANTICIPATE OUR DAY OF LEAVING. IN REGARD TO VICE MINISTER MARUYAMA'S INQUIRY ABOUT NORTH KOREAN REACTION, THERE WAS SOME SPECULATION THAT HEAVY PUBLICITY GIVEN TO TEAM SPIRIT MIGHT HAVE BEEN INTENDED IN PART TO GENERATE SUPPORT FOR HEAVY NK DEFENSE SPENDING AND SACRIFICES BEING DEMANDED BY NK POPULATION.

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19. DEPSEC SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY US JAPAN DEFENSE COOPERATION: SSC MEETING IN HONOLULU WAS EXCELLENT AND SDC WAS DOING VERY GOOD WORK. WE NEEDED TO CONTINUE MOMENTUM FOR JOINT PLANNING, GREATER COOPERATIVE R AND D EFFORT, AND MORE JOINT EXERCISES.

20. MINISTER KANEMARU ASKED WHETHER DEPSEC THOUGHT SOVIETS WOULD MAKE THREATENING MOVES TOWARD JAPAN TO SHOW DISPLEASURE IN EVENT JAPAN CONCLUDED PFT WITH PRC. DEPSEC SAID INASMUCH AS 20 PERCENT SU FORCES WERE CURRENTLY DEPLOYED AGAINST PRC, IT WAS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER SU WOULD ADD TO THIS SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER IF JAPAN WENT AHEAD WITH TREATY. MR. ABRAMOWITZ AND MINISTER SHERMAN INDICATED CONSENSUS WAS SOVIETS WOULD FIND WAYS TO EXPRESS DISPLEASURE BUT THEY PROBABLY REGARDED PFT AS INEVITABLE.

21. IN RESPONSE TO VICE MINISTER MARUYAMA'S INQUIRY ABOUT RELEASING DATA ON SOFTWARE RELATED TO P-3C, MATTER RAISED BY FORMER JDA DIRGEN MIHARA DURING WASHINGTON VISIT, DEPSEC SAID HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH DETAILS BUT UNDERSECRETARY PERRY WAS MUCH INTERESTED IN MATTER AND WE WOULD CERTAINLY GIVE IT FULL CONSIDERATION

22. DEPSEC HAVING EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR GOJ COST-SHARING ASSISTANCE, MINISTER KANEMARU COMMENTED THAT JAPAN WAS CONSTRAINED POLITICALLY BY PAST COMMITMENTS IN DIET, BUT THAT IT WAS INCUMBENT ON GOJ TO SOLIDIFY RELATIONSHIP. RECOGNIZING THERE WERE THINGS THAT COULD BE DONE AND COULD NOT BE DONE, COST SHARING WOULD BE STUDIED FURTHER.

23. FINALLY, BOTH DEPSEC AND KANEMARU EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION WITH APPROVAL OF PC-3 AND F-15 PROGRAMS, DEPSEC MAKING REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN REGARD TO IMPROVED LOGISTICS INCLUDING AMMUNITION. MANSFIELD

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